

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Frus et al.

Application No. Continuation of 09/519,545

Filed: March 1, 2002

Art Unit: 2821

Examiner: Philogene, H.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONTROLLABLY GENERATING
SPARKS IN AN IGNITION SYSTEM
OR THE LIKE

PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. An apparatus for controllably generating sparks, the apparatus comprising, in combination:

a spark generating device;

at least two output stages connected to the spark generating device, each of the output stages including: (1) an energy storage device to store energy; (2) a controlled switch for selectively discharging the energy storage device; and (3) a network for transferring the energy discharged by the energy storage device to the spark generating device;

means for charging the energy storage devices and at least partially isolating the energy storage device of each output stage from the energy storage devices of the other output stages; and,

a logic circuit connected to the controlled switches of the at least two output stages for selectively triggering the output stages to transfer their stored energy to the spark generating device to generate a spark.